

Leys News



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The Leys Community Conference - have your say



Summer '03 - Celebrations on the Leys

THE **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR ALL OF THE LEYS

Leys News

Leys News Ltd it is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. **Leys News** is not affiliated to any political party. **Leys News** operates an equal opportunities policy and encourages any resident to get involved in its work.

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Leys News - a company limited by guarantee No. 3591512

Leys News AGM

**will be held at 7pm
on
October 27th
at the
Leys Linx Centre.**

**Come and have a say in
the running of your
community newspaper.
Everyone welcome.**

**Next *Leys Bulletin*
out in early November.**

**Copy deadline:
Fri 24 October**

***Leys News 34*
out in early December.**

**Copy & ad deadline:
Wed 5 November**

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Distribution Co-ordinator Wanted

Do you have a few hours to spare once every two months?

Leys News is looking for a **Distribution Co-ordinator** to manage the distribution of the paper, deliver the paper to community venues and to our distributors, and liaise with them and the office.



The work should take about three hours once every two months. We pay for your time and mileage for use of your vehicle.

If you think you might be interested call the office (711756) for more details.

Leys News Ltd. acknowledges financial assistance from:
Oxford City Council
Ealing Family Housing Association
Oxford Citizens Housing Association
Oxfordshire Community Foundation
and support in kind from:
Newsquest (Oxfordshire) Ltd.
and Business Boffins Ltd.



The Leys Community Conference

1st Nov 2003 at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre.

Over the past ten years a number of organisations on the estate have been sustained by "SRB" programs for government funding. Development workers were employed, local groups like pre-schools, holiday and after-school clubs, youth work, community safety schemes, the Credit Union, tenant participation groups and centres like the Dovecote, Kingfisher Green and Leys Linx all received help.

Many local people helped to run these organisations as volunteers and some have found paid employment. But this source of funding is coming to an end (in March 2004). A change of policy means that in future Blackbird Leys will not be able to tap into the main government funding programs.

So where do we go from here? How do local groups (especially new ones) get funding and help in organising? What do we want for this estate over the next few years? Which organisations do we want to continue? (Perhaps all of them.) What new projects would we like to see started? And how can we continue to provide employment for local people and support and training for volunteers?

People have been discussing ways of following on from the SRB programs. Many feel that it is important to have a single Leys organisation in which people can pool their ideas to draw up a strategy. It could also, especially if it were a registered charity, help to raise funds for many groups or assist them in their own fundraising efforts. It could also draw in expert help for local groups wanting to employ a worker or facing special legal requirements.

Over the last 10 years the SRB Partnership Board and the Blackbird Leys Community Development Initiative have both acted as estate-wide support organisations. Do we want the Partnership Board to continue in a new form when the SRB money ends? Or do we want the Community Development Initiative to be re-shaped so that it can better represent the estate and give groups the support they require?

If you have views and ideas about how we should organise ourselves to get funding onto the Leys and to provide the services we really need, share them around.

Over the next few weeks people will be in the streets (outside the shops, in the pubs, you never know where they might turn up) and you'll be able to give them some thoughts to go into the planning of the conference. Or you can contact James Morbin or Jim Hewitt through the Credit Union (718503).

But above all, come to the conference on 1st November (about 2 - 4 in the afternoon, details closer to the date). Let's see if we can get the future moving for the Leys.

There will also be a Karaoke party in the evening.

Jim Hewitt

....Church News....Church News....

Holy Family Church

On Sunday 12th October the Holy Family Church will hold a Harvest Festival with a service for all ages at 10.00 a.m.

It will also be the day that the church will be joined by Leonie Betts. She is training at Mansfield College for the Ministry of the United Reformed Church. She will be part time at Holy Family for two years and is looking forward to meeting you out and about.

The week beginning October 19th is One World Week. Local churches are organising some 'Fair Trade' events, a Fair Trade Meal on the 19th at Iffley, and a Coffee Stall in the Cowley Centre on Friday 24th.

Sacred Heart R.C. Church

The Sacred Heart Church serves the needs of the Catholics living on Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys, though non-Catholics are also always welcome at the church.

The church has recently undergone something of a face lift, as the outside of the church and also the metal gates and railings have been given a much needed coat of paint. The garden area in front of the church has also been greatly tidied and improved.

The resident priest at the church is Fr. Prem Fernando who can be contacted at the church or on 779658. Mass is said each Sunday at 9:30am and 6:00pm. Marriages and baptisms etc. can be arranged with the priest.

More than just news

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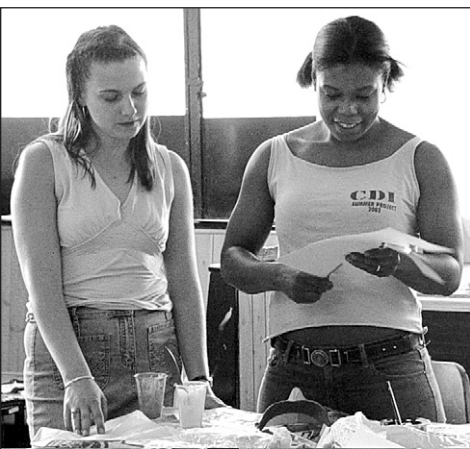
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Youth Summer Project

By Becky Telford



**Debbie Scrivener & Claire Ford,
CDI Summer Project Workers**

Throughout August, young people aged 9-17 were able to try their hand at a range of activities provided as part of the hugely popular Community Development Initiative (CDI) summer project.

"With the heat it's been hard to get the kids to sit still, so the outdoor sports have been a favourite," said Claire Ford, CDI's Summer Project Admin Support Worker. "Activities included the music project, the art project, swimming, ice-skating and other sports, and developing new IT skills".

The activities on offer focused on the young people's interests, with the week of music technology being popular across the board. "The.... workshops have been really popular with both boys and girls, which is unusual" said Maxine Charlotte, one of the project workers. "The project showed the kids how easy it is to make music. Because they could see there was

a result and they knew they were going to use it at the performance, they dedicated every day to making that music."

As well as leaving with a CD of their own music, the young people were able to spend a day in Cave Street SoundWorks, a full-time recording studio. The popularity of the music sessions looks set to continue, with Cave Street SoundWorks relocating to the Blackbird Leys Community Centre.

The project also tapped into other activities and projects based in East Oxford. There were healthy eating workshops, run in conjunction with the local Healthy Living Initiative, where there were lessons on making tasty and nutritious smoothies and juices.

A final performance was held at the Kassam Stadium on 29th August, showcasing the fruits of the young people's hard work. Alongside presentations of the art work that had been created, there were photos and video diaries of the week and live performances of singing and dancing, with the young people wearing t-shirts they had designed themselves.

The final showing of the music, dance and arts created during the project was displayed at Leys Fair on 14th September where the young people performed alongside seasoned Oxford acts like Mackating.

Everyone involved in the Youth Summer Project would like to say a giant thank you to Marsha Jackson for all her effort and commitment to the project.

New Health Centre Update

Proposals for the Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) project, which will be building a new purpose-built Health Resource Centre for Blackbird Leys in Dunnock Way, has been causing quite a stir across the Leys. We contacted Oxford City Primary Care Trust to get an update on the plans and progress of the project. Patricia Miller, Public Involvement Manager, had this reply:

The LIFT project will be building a new purpose-built Health Resource Centre for Blackbird Leys in Dunnock Way, which will be able to provide a range of services in an environment suited to the modern-day NHS.

The local LIFT partnership consists of Oxford City Primary Care Trust, Oxfordshire Mental Health Trust, both Oxford City and County Councils and Partnerships for Health Ltd. which is the Government's national body for LIFT. In addition there will be a further partner - a private consortium who will invest in the project, design, build and maintain the new building. All these partners will be stakeholders in the Blackbird Leys Health Resource Centre and other health buildings planned for Oxfordshire. The partnership will be for 20 to 25 years.

So where are we now in the process? Three private sector bidders have been shortlisted and are giving presentations of their ideas for building plans and the partnership this week. On the 8th October one of the bidders will be selected as the private partner and the result will be announced on 9th October.

The Blackbird Leys community will have lots of opportunities to comment on the design of the buildings as the

project moves on and staff members of the current Health Centre have been fully involved in the plans.

We do know that the new building will house a GP practice, a pharmacy, the community nursing team and dental services. There will also be a children's nursery run by the Co-operative Society on site. However any other services which might be offered have not yet been agreed. We also know that some residents are concerned about what will happen to the old Health Centre building. We are sorry that we are unable to give you more information on this at present as this will need to be part of discussions in the future. If it is possible to retain it for health or community purposes, we will certainly be strongly considering that option. It is hoped construction works will start on site in March 2004 and the building will be ready to move into in early 2005.

If you would like to contact Oxford City Primary Care Trust to tell us your views, or would like to invite us to come and speak with any of your community groups, please contact the LIFT Team on 01865 226820.

Write to Leys News and let us know what you think.

Healthy Living Initiative



During Blackbird Leys Multi-Cultural Day visitors took part in a 'fruit from around the world' quiz, matching up the names of the fruit and where it came from. Did you know that many Granny Smith apples in our shops come all the way from New Zealand?

The purpose of the Healthy Living Initiative is to help improve the health and well being of people in East Oxford and Blackbird Leys. It is based around existing community venues.

What has the project been doing?

The project got going in May. Since then project staff, Becky Willis and Kate Dunsdon, have been consulting and getting to know local community groups. Activities this summer have included:

- Running healthy eating sessions at summer playschemes, such as the Asian Cultural Centre playscheme.
- Offering short massage sessions to introduce people to complementary therapies.
- Giving out information about health at community events.

Coming up...

Through the Autumn there will be sessions and courses on preparing healthy meals, basic first aid, stress management and other health-related subjects, as well as work with particular target groups. Do contact us if you would like to know more, or look out for more information on noticeboards at the Leys Linx Centre in Blackbird Leys Road.

There are also plans for using the new kitchen and consultation room at Blackbird Leys Youth and Community Centre, which were developed as part of the project. It is good to see that the

kitchen is already used most days for serving up tasty Caribbean meals, and we would welcome ideas on how we could use it during 'healthy living' sessions. The consultation room is also in use much of the time. Counselling sessions are due to start there in the autumn with the Oxford Parent-Infant Project (OXPIP).

A healthy eating message

Eating five portions of fruit & veg a day provide us with plenty of the vitamins, minerals, fibre and other substances such as antioxidants which we need every day to stay healthy. We should aim to eat a variety of fruit and veg to get the maximum benefit, remembering that fresh, chilled, canned, frozen, dried and 100% juice (but only one portion no matter how much you drink), all count. So why not add some fruit to your breakfast cereal and some extra fruit & veg to your lunch and dinner..... to get on your way to five a day!

For more information on the benefits of healthy eating and practical ways to eat more fruit & veg, come along to one of our healthy eating sessions in the Autumn.

To contact the Healthy Living Initiative call 715577. Becky Willis, Project Co-ordinator (0790 9893927) Kate Dunsdon, Kitchen Co-ordinator (0790 9893907) becky@eastoxford-healthyliving.org.uk

Money Matters

By Jim Hewitt

Do you sometimes have cheques you can't get cashed?

Many people on the Leys find they're given cheques as refunds, gifts, payment for work they've done or something they've sold, or sometimes, as an adjustment to their benefits. Unfortunately, many of them find the only way to cash it - or to cash it quickly - is to go to the pawn shop and pay for the privilege: 8%, 10% whatever. It's a lot of money to pay, just for getting what is yours anyway.

The Blackbird Leys Credit Union has recently found more and more of its members coming to us to have their cheques cashed. Because we know our members, the Credit Union can often speed up the process, which it does without charge.

When the cheques come from a well-known employer, local organisation, or some government department we can pay out immediately. You need to tell us in advance though as we don't keep cash on the premises. We also ask that when a member cashes a cheque; they leave a small amount, 5% or so, in the Credit Union savings. It's still theirs, and they can withdraw it later, but it encourages the Credit Union to know that everyone using its services is also saving.

The Blackbird Leys Credit Union is in the Leys Linx Centre (Blackbird Leys Community Centre) and is open Mondays 10-11am; Tuesdays 7-7.30pm and Saturdays 10.30-11.30am. You can telephone anytime on 718503. The Credit Union is run by local volunteers.

BLITZ news...

FAMILY HISTORY AT THE CLOCKHOUSE

Older people have been creating their family trees and researching their family history on the Internet.

Often with little or no computer experience the participants have been able to compile an impressive family tree. By scanning their photographs and carrying out extra research they have been able to bring the information to life. The emphasis has been on producing a record from memory which can be shared with grandchildren and other members of the family.



Of course the Internet also gives people a chance to search for distant relatives and sometimes exciting discoveries can be made. Bill found a fascinating website from the village where he grew up and really enjoyed reading about people he remembered, and sent his own memories to be featured. This led to him being contacted by his cousin's daughter and they now keep in touch by email.

The next morning session is on Monday 20th October at The Clockhouse, Long Ground. No computer experience is needed. If you would like to come and take part please book in advance by ringing 717614.

At the Blitz Hub

'Computers for the Terrified' 9.30 - 12 Wednesdays. 10 week course for beginners covering using computers for word processing, the internet, email and scanning. Starts the beginning of October.

A **community website clinic** will be held every Thursday lunchtime at the IT hub in the Leys Linx Centre from 11am-2pm with help, training and advice on web design and maintenance.

A series of nine web design **taster sessions** will begin on Sat. 11th October from 2pm to 5pm. The sessions will begin with an

understanding of all computing terms and then go on to cover the world of web design explaining the different technologies available. The later sessions will help students that have reached the intermediate and advanced levels to use networking and servers and all the server side programming tools.

Another **web design** course will be coming soon on Thursday evenings. We also plan to hold more **digital photography** sessions and another **computer maintenance course**. Wednesday evening **word processing** starts again on 5th November.

All courses are free for local residents.

Mixed feelings on school uniform



Students from Peers model their new uniform. L-R Chloe Tutty, Lesley Caswell (Year 7 Tutor Leader), Alysea Witts, Charlotte Maisey, Daphe James (Asst. Head Teacher Key Stage 3), Calum Smith.

When Peers School re-opened this September it had almost doubled in size and now caters for almost 1200 students. With the change in the Oxfordshire school systems, from three-tier to two-tier, the school opened new classes for years seven, eight and nine. These new students are the first to wear the Peers school uniform - but it has been getting a mixed reaction. We went to find out what the fuss is about.

The uniform was chosen by an implementation group made up of school governors, parents and teachers but the purple fleece, t-shirts and gym gear have had some parents grumbling about the quality. 'The t-shirt for PE is see-through,' commented one parent. 'I don't want my child wearing that. And the fleece quality isn't very good either. It balls before you even wash it.'

Chris Dark, Head Teacher at Peers, had this reply 'We were very conscious of the price of this uniform and wanted to keep the cost down. Both parents and students were consulted on this and we've done our best in a difficult and sensitive situation. The weight of the PE shirt was chosen so that students would not get too hot during games and the hooded fleece was suggested by students themselves.'

The school has helped a quarter of students' families to cover the cost of the uniform, either through grants or a monthly payment scheme. 'We sourced the uniform from a UK manufacturer and though there have been some inefficiencies with orders I think most parents and students are quite happy. I really only expected to see about half the students in uniform at the beginning of term, but we've had about 95% of students come in uniform,' continued Mr. Dark.

The students themselves also seem

fairly happy with their new clothes and actually seem to like the uniform, which has a choice of t-shirts to suit everyone's taste. 'It's very smart and I don't have to try and decide what to wear in the morning,' said Alysea Witts, 'and there's no arguing with my parents about what I'm going to wear.' Chloe Tutty commented 'It also means I can keep my own clothes as my best clothes and I don't have to worry about messing them up at school.'

The uniform also gives the school a sense of identity and the students a sense of belonging. 'It's a new school and a new start and the uniform gives an identity to the place,' commented Daphne James, Asst. Head Teacher, Key Stage 3. 'It also creates a sense of belonging and equality. No one is judged because of what they are wearing and students can then be free to really be themselves and be in an atmosphere where the chief agenda is learning.'

One of the problems in planning for the introduction of the uniform was that the incoming students were still attending other schools. 'We consulted students in the local schools that we knew would be coming to Peers this autumn but it's difficult to plan when everything is going to be new,' continued Ms. James. 'In any discussion about uniforms there will always be mixed opinions. I'm happy that we have a such a strong collective voice in our parents. If we can discuss subjects like uniforms then we can progress onto actually discussing what and how the students are being taught.'

The school plans to hold a series of meeting with parents during the coming year to discuss the uniform and the possibility of it extending into year 10 when the current year 9 students move up next September.

Blackbird Leys Information Technology Zone

18 computer centres across Blackbird Leys
Free use of computers and the internet

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All levels of ability welcome

Experienced staff and volunteers on hand to help those who have not used a computer before

Play Day 2003

By Roy Simmonds

On Wednesday August 6th, the annual children's Playday was held at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre.

There was a large variety of attractions, including face painting, balloon sculpture and badge making as well as a circus ring to try out circus skills such as stilt walking and juggling.

There was also a digital photography workshop where children could have their photo taken and have their head superimposed on to an image of their choosing. This was arranged and carried out by tutors from the Blitz hub. The Oxfordshire playbus was also on site.

The children and helpers all seemed to have a great day.



'A massive thank you,' said Playday organiser Joey Philips, 'to BLITZ Hub, Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, Street Wardens, the Blackbird Leys Pool Staff, Al Cane (photographer), Oxford Play Association, Children's Information Service, Oxfordshire Playbus, the Playday Committee and many others for their support. The event would not have taken place if it were not for the support of all those mentioned above, and of course all the Playschemes and parents that attended.'



UK Dad's Posse

The UKdadsposse is a project that aims to develop programs of practical support for fathers and their children. The organisation celebrates fatherhood by encouraging and supporting fathers in communities in their role as parents and carers.

The project seeks to meet the needs of dads of all ages, especially fathers who may be in difficult circumstances, such as teenage fathers, those living away from their families or those who are/have been in prison or youth custody.

We know that dads are important to their children and that children are important to their dads. If you are a dad/carer or dad to be, that knows that you are important to your children and want some support in getting the best for your children then the UKdadsposse is for you.

We recognise that sometimes

The UKdadsposse offer:

- One-to-one confidential advice
- Group meetings for dads/young people
- Exploring what it means to be a dad/carer
- Sharing the experiences of being a dad
- Practical projects/workshops, social events

organisations find men, including fathers difficult to engage with. The project also offers training programmes for social professionals who work with or are seeking to work with fathers, which can be tailored to meet the specific needs of staff in such organisations.

The UKdadsposse is working on forming groups in the Oxford area where fathers will be able to talk and share common experiences around fatherhood, looking at what it means to be a dad or male carer/parent.

The project would also like to hear from interested persons who would like to volunteer their time and energy to assist in running social activities that would allow fathers to enhance their family life by spending quality time with their children.

For more information contact:

Carlton, UKdadsposse, c/o Leys Community Learning Project, Blackbird Leys Community Centre. Tel: 396755 or 0795 1397744.

ukdadsposse@yahoo.co.uk

Carlton Gabbidon, UKdadsposse co-ordinator has many years' experience managing social projects. He is a trainer with the national father's organisation Father's Direct and he has also managed Sure Start funded fathers' projects in east London.

Home-Start expansion

Home-Start Oxford have successfully recruited two new members of staff; a full-time co-ordinator and a part-time administrative assistant, who will join the scheme at their expanded offices in Blackbird Leys Youth and Community Centre.

This is the first step into the development of Home-Start in which volunteers offer support for families in their own homes, both in Blackbird Leys and throughout the city. This growth has been made possible through a

successful bid to the Community Fund, which will enable the additional staff to recruit, train and support more home-visiting volunteers in the area.

Employment of additional staff is only part of the solution for the ever increasing demand for family support. Home-Start Oxford is actively looking to recruit more volunteers and will be running a free 'Preparation Course' from the beginning of October.

If you could spare some time to support and befriend a family for two to three hours a week (no qualifications needed) please contact Lyn or Sue on 779991.

Oxford Women's Training Scheme

Northway Centre, Maltfield Road, Oxford OX3 9RG
Telephone: 01865 741317



We have a few spaces on three of our exciting start up courses:

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Phone us now for further details!

Assistance towards childcare and travel costs
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NEW NAME! NEW LOGO! EVEN MORE GREAT COURSES!

On the 1 August 2003 the new Oxford and Cherwell College came into being. The College has been created out of a reorganisation of three existing colleges, namely Oxford College of Further Education, North Oxfordshire College and School of Art and Rycotewood College. Students arriving at the Oxford campus of the new college in September will initially not be aware of any major changes.

With the arrival of the new Principal, Sally Dicketts on the 1 October 2003 progress will be made to create a first class college that will grow and prosper. From 1 August the new Oxford and Cherwell logo, below, will be launched and used on all stationery and signs at the College's campuses

Photo of Sally Dicketts, Principal



Full-time Courses available at the Oxford Campus, Cherwell College from Sept 2003

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Oxford & Cherwell College, Oxford Campus, Oxford OX1 1SA
Tel: 01865 269 269 email: enquiries@oxford.occ.ac.uk
www.oxford-cherwell.ac.uk

Resident Parking Scheme

The resident parking scheme has been introduced and the two-week grace period ended on September 24th when the parking wardens were out in force for a capacity crowd-pulling match with Reading. In general the introduction of the controversial scheme has provided relief for residents but others expressed annoyance at the necessity to send original documents to the council in order to obtain a parking permit. By the time the scheme finally came into place over 2,500 residents in the area had applied for permits.

It is hoped that comments from residents of the estate, good or bad,

Ealing Family Housing Association would like to request the co-operation of their tenants when they have contractors working in their home. The contractors might be attending on a day when the new parking permit scheme is in force and therefore the contractor will need to be issued with a visitors permit from you.

As there is no limit on the number of visitors permits you can have, we expect

about the scheme will be forwarded by you to your City Councillors, Oxfordshire County Councillor or Parish Council. There will be a meeting of residents later in the year where you can voice your opinion on this scheme. Remember that this scheme is only a 6 month experiment and if there are problems they must be solved before it is made permanent.

What do you think? Is it working? Let Leys News know.

this not to be a problem. With your co-operation the work should be carried out on the day the operative calls, but if you cannot assist then the Contractor has been advised to defer the work until such time as there are no parking restrictions in place, and because of other commitments it will not always be possible for our Contractors to offer a return date immediately.



Brook Cleanup



Above: The pile of rubbish removed from the waterways.

Left: Northfield Brook restored to its former glory

During August the Littlemore and Northfield brooks were cleared of rubbish which had accumulated over many years. 80-100 tons (that's 16 lorry loads) of metal, tyres, bicycles, mattresses, concrete blocks and other materials were dredged from the waters and taken away by contractors.

Oxford City Council paid for the clean up but are hoping that land owners around both brooks will help foot the final bill and take future responsibility for the

maintenance of the waterways.

The Street Wardens became aware of the problem on their daily rounds of the area and then the Parish Council spear-headed the campaign to clean the brooks. The Parish Council would like to thank the workers involved for their tremendous effort in carrying out this task.

It is hoped that wildlife will return to this area, already Kingfishers have been seen hunting for prey.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Fly tipping

The Park Rangers have been called to Spindleberry Nature reserve on a number of occasions to deal with rubbish that has been fly-tipped. Residents should remember that it is illegal to dump any rubbish, and that includes grass cutting or any other green garden rubbish, in this area. It is the belief of the Parish Council that prosecutions will take place if offenders are caught. This area is a nature reserve for wild life. Much money has been spent on the site and it is a pity if it is spoilt by people dumping their rubbish here. If you have any garden refuse to get rid of please purchase green bags (50p each) from the housing office in Cuddesdon Way. The refuse collectors

will then take them away on collection day. Better still try to compost your green refuse and you will be able to use it on your garden.

Leys Fair

The Parish Council has given the Leys Fair organisation £500 towards helping finance the event. If organisations on the estate want to apply for a Grant please contact the Parish Office for further details on 734346. Each application will be discussed as they are received.

Knight's Road update

The footpath from Knights Road to the Stadium has been laid; we now await for the lighting and fencing to be done. The toilets have also been reopened, it is hoped that people will use them for what they intended for. The City Council have said that misuse will lead to their closure.

List of current Parish Councillors

- Brian Lester (Chairman)
- Bob Avery (Vice Chairman)
- Lee Cole (Treasurer)
- Linda Booker, Sharon Cole, Chris Hatton, Jane Lacey, Cyril Martin and Gordon Roper.

There are still a number of vacancies for Parish Councillors. Anyone interested in being a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish office 734346.

Trax Project

The Leys Street Wardens and nine young people from Blackbird Leys are involved with the Trax project at the Barn. The project involves teaching young people how to strip

The Who?

What are these new street wardens actually doing in Blackbird Leys? Volunteer reporter Jing Li went to find out.



Although the street wardens have been out and about for a number of months not everyone knows what or who they are. I followed street wardens Katherine Ryder and Kevin Gosling around Blackbird Leys one day to see what they were up to.

Katherine explained their basic role, "In early 2003 Oxford City Council appointed nine street wardens and a supervisor to work in Blackbird Leys, Littlemore, Northfield Brook and Rose Hill. Our core tasks are caring for the street environment, deferring anti-social behavior, reducing crime and fear of crime, fostering social inclusion and so on."

The street wardens tackle problems like graffiti, litter, noise and abandoned cars and were instrumental in organising the clean-up of Northfield

things."

Information cards about the street warden scheme will be delivered to almost 10,000 homes in the city this month making sure that every household knows about the service. The street wardens have also visited local schools to introduce themselves and were involved in a summer campaign to get children to wear bicycle helmets when cycling.

"I suppose the most important thing is to let people know that we are here to help and not to be afraid to approach us," commented Katherine. "We are out in the community everyday and we do encourage people to come and talk to us and discuss any issues they may have." **You can contact the street wardens on 401456.**

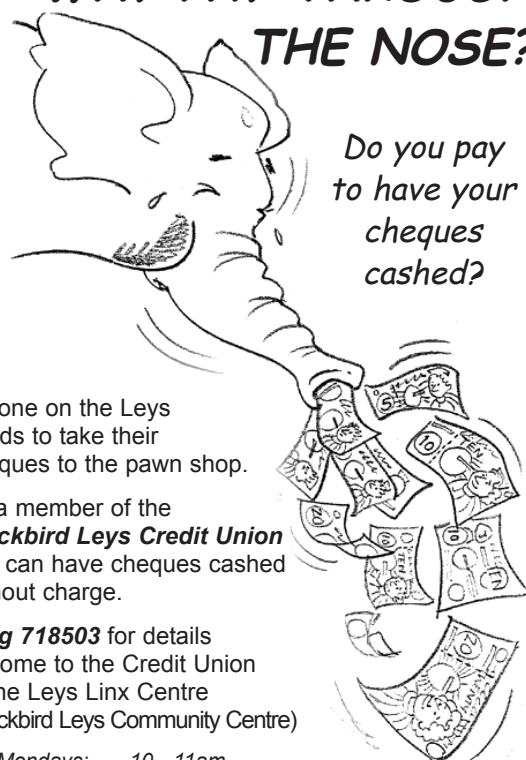
and issues relevant to their age group.

The project encourages a positive view of education and training through a combination of training in social skills, motor mechanics, literacy, numeracy and IT training. Additionally, the aim is to support each individual to progress into vocational training or a job.

down and rebuild a Go-Kart. At their final session the group will race their karts at Cowley Stadium.

The six-week project, which began on September 8th, aims to teach the 13-16 year olds basic kart maintenance and an awareness of health and safety issues involved. The group also discuss decision making and its consequences

WHY PAY THROUGH THE NOSE?



No-one on the Leys needs to take their cheques to the pawn shop.

As a member of the **Blackbird Leys Credit Union** you can have cheques cashed without charge.

Ring 718503 for details or come to the Credit Union at the Leys Linx Centre (Blackbird Leys Community Centre)

Mondays: 10 - 11am
Tuesdays: 7 - 7.30pm
Saturdays: 10.30 - 11.30am

The Blackbird Leys Credit Union is supported by the government's Single Regeneration Budget through the South East of England Development Agency

Community Garden- It's up to you!

Did you know that Oxford City Council have put aside £20,000 for the residents of Greater Leys and Blackbird Leys to develop their own community garden out of part of Gillians Park?

The money is just sitting there waiting to be spent on designing a garden for use by locals. Most importantly, the ideas need to come from those living nearby rather than the council.

Walking through the park, it's easy to say that the area is fairly neat and that it's been created quite recently but it just looks like any other council park when it could look so different. The difficult part is knowing what local people would like, for example a picnic area for parents with young children might be a popular option or maybe a shady area for sitting on a hot day?

Various members of the Leys

Resident's Association have come up with ideas but we want you, the local people, to be involved and have your chance to help plan and design the community garden so we can start using and enjoying it - we could put the T.V. garden programmes to shame. Just think of how many daffs you could plant for £20,000!

Leys Linx is working with the Leys Residents Association to help plan the development of a community garden. If you would like to get involved in this project and share your ideas please phone Leys Linx on 402070 or contact the LRA via the Farm House.

Green Fingers

by Stuart Mabbutt



Edible rhubarb is one of the simplest crops gardeners can grow, and ranks alongside radishes and beetroot on the easy league table. The best coloured and flavoured rhubarb is produced in the north, here in the south we rely on the greener and much sharper tasting types.

The reason behind this is that certain rhubarb types like 'Canada Red' flourish better in colder areas, when an

extended exposure to frost help bring them out of dormancy.

Due to experiencing less severe cold in the southern counties, we are unable to compete with northern gardeners.

Whatever types you go for though, growing rhubarb is easy, just look at the overgrown allotments and neglected vegetable plots. Rhubarb is usually still growing strong long after most other plants. You certainly have a special talent if you manage to kill it!

I would advise starting with a variety called Rheum x Hybridum 'Early Champagne' if you are planting from scratch. There are evergreen rhubarbs like the variety 'Bakers All Season' which will produce for most of the year. However, after time the plant wears itself out and the stems become significantly thinner and disappointing.

It is best to plant an entirely new rhubarb crown, as seed propagation is notoriously difficult, even for the experts. But ensure the new crown is solid; any soft areas will alert you to disease and rot.

The best time to plant is autumn, so start planning now. Plant in a weed free zone on an open site, in sun or dappled shade. The soil must be moist but well

drained at the same time. When planting, ensure you offer a healthy helping of rotted manure, these beasties are hungry blighters.

On heavy soil, plant rhubarb on a mound or ridge, this stops them rotting as a consequence of sitting up to their necks in sodden soil.

Harvesting takes place after 3 years, as it needs time to establish prior to picking. Once you start picking, always leave at least one third, so you don't tire the plant out.

Unless you keep the crowns extremely well watered and mulched, cropping will stop when the warm weather arrives, but with a well planned watering regime, you can actively extend the rhubarb picking period. Above all else, never let it flower, flowering drastically saps strength.

Rhubarbs can be a bold contributor to the ornamental garden too, especially those with coloured foliage. Rheum x Hybridum 'Crimson Wine' has fascinating leaf veining, and is stunning, a real personal favourite.

Rhubarb in a western corner of your garden will show the plant off to its full potential. Standing in complete majestic glory when late afternoon sun dramatically shines through the impressive foliage.

Rhubarbs are so undervalued. They are a tasty crop, are hardy and easy to grow. Giving your garden that instant tropical feel in return for, well, seemingly little effort. Easy gardening, what more could you want?



Images courtesy of baryscipart.com

PATHWAY WORKSHOP

Reg Charity No 1014416

providing paid employment for adults with disabilities
PRODUCTS MADE FROM SELECTED RECLAIMED TIMBER

- BIRD TABLES
- HEDGEHOG HOUSES
- BIRD NEST-BOXES
- COMPOST BINS
- PARK BENCHES
- PICNIC BENCHES
- TRELLIS ARCHES

FREE DELIVERY
OVER £50
20 mile radius
of the workshop

OPEN DAY

Saturday
1st November
PATHWAY
WORKSHOP

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

5 % Discount on
all orders

10% Discount to
Bonanza members
(on production
of their card)

Visitors welcome at our workshop
(off Windale Avenue), Blackbird Leys, Oxford
Tel: 01865 714111 (for brochure and price list)

Blackbird Bonanza

Thank you, to all our members and local shops who so kindly donated prizes to our stall at Leys Fair. With your help we raised in excess of £100 for Pathway Workshop. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you all once again.

*From September 26th there has been a
new time for the weekly draw.*

It now takes place at Pathway Workshop at 3.30 p.m.

Please feel free to drop in and take part in the draw being made, you never know you could pull out your own ticket!

Once again there will be a Christmas raffle this year with all the weekly tickets for December entered into the draw. There are some fantastic prizes to be won, so please make sure you don't miss out on winning. This raffle is free to all Bonanza members purchasing weekly draw tickets in December 2003.

Job opportunities

Earn extra cash for Christmas, become a Bonanza collector, generous weekly commission, as well as weekly and half yearly bonuses.
If you are over the age of 18 and are interested in earning some extra money for approximately 3 hours a week - please contact the co-ordinator on Oxford 423023.

Pathway Workshop, Dunnock Way, Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 7EX
(Next To The Spar Shop)

For big and small gardening jobs, landscaping, garden furniture restoration and pressure washing for paving. Contact: Stuart Mabbutt Ph: 747 243

Blackbird Leys goes online

On October 9th the community website www.blackbirdleys.com goes on line - here's how it all came about.

The **We Need You** pages are where the personal websites are kept and where you can visit one of our specialist clubs and share your interests.

If your family are fed up with you going on about your favourite hobby then leave them in their ignorance, share your ideas and opinions on the community website with those who really care!

See
YOUR
www.blackbirdleys.com
community website.

The Lord Mayor of Oxford will be coming to a **Tea and Bun Fest** on Thursday 9th October 2003, to celebrate the launch of the Blackbird Leys Community Website. The event will start at 3pm and is set to include a online tour of the new community website, a fun quiz about the internet, amazing facts about Blackbird Leys and talks from the Lord Mayor and local people who have created websites. **Everyone welcome!**

**Can't work a computer?
Never used the internet?
Afraid to get involved?**

It's easier than you think!

The Blitz hub is your bridge to a new universe and technical help is already in place to help you make your ideas into reality.

More information on courses page 4.

Computers for the terrified
↓
Introduction to e-mail and internet
↓
Web taster sessions
↓
Community website clinic
↓
Design your own page
↓
Conquer the universe...

As a single mum I decided I would like to better myself and learn some new skills for when I was able to return to full time employment. I attended Oxford Women's Training Scheme, where I studied many aspects of I.T. including web design. I learnt to use many different programs and ways to design web pages.

For work experience while on this course I offered to help design a web page for Leys News. I still do this for Leys News on a voluntary basis from home and very much enjoy it. It keeps me active and I feel I am playing a part in the community and it also holds me in good stead for future employment.

I feel it is very important for local businesses to have web sites in this day of modern technology and feel very proud to be a part of it.

Julia Sutton

See
Julia's site
www.leysnews.co.uk
Leys News online.

Other Ideas...

Other ideas for the future of the site include local games, downloadable mp3s, free stuff, photos, amazing facts and much more.

The community website committee **want to know what you think** and so please let us know what you would like to see and what you don't want to see.

This site will always be constantly changing so keep clicking away and visit the site regularly to stay in touch with your community.

See
what the

www.blackbirdleys.co.uk

Parish Council is up to.

What's on our site?

Local events: Everything that is happening in the area. Anyone can add new events to this section.

Forum: Air your views, make comments and read what others think.

Information: Find out about local groups - everything from transport to advice to shops.

Map: Useful if you need to give directions.

Noticeboard: Small ads and announcements.

Photos: If you have nice photos of the area you can display them here.

What else can you do on-line?

What's on?

www.dailyinfo.co.uk

Get ringtones:

www.compare-ringtones-uk.co.uk

Shop:

www.argos-additions.co.uk

Take a course:

www.learndirect.co.uk

Research family history:

www.familyrecords.gov.uk

Compare prices:

www.kelkoo.co.uk

Get advice:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Find train times:

www.nationalrail.co.uk

Read your horoscopes:

www.astrology.com

Catch up on Eastenders:

www.bbc.co.uk/eastenders

Find recipes:

www.allrecipes.com

Motor-racing:

www.formula1.com

Congratulations from Leys News to the group of dedicated local residents and workers who have made their vision a reality!

Blackbird Leys**Looking back...**

stories photographs memories impressions

Black History Month

The profile of Britain's Black History month has been growing from year to year, and October 2003 is no exception to the trend. The month of October is an opportunity for multi-cultural Britain to step back and appraise its diverse heritage.

Events are happening all over Oxford including **Black History sessions** in schools, a visit by the eldest daughter of **Malcolm X** to the Oxford Union on October 15th, special events at the Oxford Playhouse, an **African fashion show** at Cowley Parish Hall on October 4th and a **World Food day** on October 16th.

The Leys is playing a central part in this year's Black History Month activities which kicks off on the 1st of October with the **Nigerian Independence Celebrations** at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre. Highlights of the October programme include the **'Oscar Night Dinner and Dance'** at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre on the 25th of October, in celebration of African and Caribbean achievements over the past year.

Leys resident and writer, Chuma Nwokolo, will do a **reading** from his new book, *One More Tale for the Road*, which tackles the emotional heritage of traumatic adoptions. This event is scheduled for 2pm on the 11th October at

Borders Bookshop on Magdalen Street, Oxford. The following week, on 18th October, he will also give a talk at the same time at the Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Street, Oxford, on Black Writing; History, Inspiration and Artefacts. It will be followed by a talk and tour by the curatorial staff of the museum.

Teenagers are not left out of the Black History programme. The Blackbird Leys Youth Centre will play host to a **video night** on the 16th of October, as well as a **youth disco** for 13 to 19 year olds on the 20th of October. There will also be an opportunity for you to have your say on the 15th of October, as parents and young people **meet the Police** at the Youth Centre.

Leys Linx will be the venue of a series of **Black History Taster Sessions** on the 2nd and 29th of October.

There's certainly no excuse for boredom in the month of October! Events are lined up for practically every day and a desk calendar for the month can be picked up at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre or the Leys Library.

For more information on any of the events or on making nominations for the Oscar night contact Robert Evans 864717 or Pat Green 774144.



On August 19th another very successful Multicultural Day was held at the Community Centre and CMS bar. The family day out included stalls, children's entertainment, youth music, a barbeque and disco. The photo shows Pat Green at her stall on Multicultural day. (Photo courtesy of Al Cane)

Accan Oscar Night

Get your nominations in NOW!

Know anyone who has excelled in the community in the last year? This is your final chance to make nominations for the Black History month Oscars night so get thinking now and show these people they are appreciated.

Categories include: **Academic Achiever, Community Person, Black Business Person, Black Family, Sports Person, Black Writer, Black Person of Courage, Black Sound System, Black Artist, Community Worker, Video/Film Maker, Photographer, Academic Teacher/Tutor/Lecturer, Performing Artist, Singer/Songwriter.**

Endangered Species

by Chuma Nwokolo, Jr.

Just for once in my life I should like to see myself.

Standing by the taxi rank on Cornmarket Street,
I should like to see myself walk past,
with slumped shoulders,
stunned and downcast eyes,
and without a sideways glance,
threading through the crush by the clock-tower,
never to be seen or ignored again
forever more.

The panda is endangered, yes.
- and there's a species of flora, whose
discovery in the bracken, last week,
scrapped the grandiose plans
for another housing estate...
but - **goodness** - I'm an endangered entity myself!
Give or take a month, or half-a-century,
I'll be rarer than a dodo. Yes. That's me.

And for once in my life I should like to see myself, starkly.

Standing quite aloof of the chauvinisms of choice,
I should like to hear the clangour of injustice
as a racketing,
not as a lullaby by Brahms; to see the tussling winds of might
as bullying hurricanes,
snapping the bloodless bones of orchards in their lunacy.
I should like to smell the charnel, alongside the bacon,
before burrowing, eventually, into my sanctuary of sand.

Yes.

I should like to see the story in a wizened face
from Mombasa or Mumbai,
whose tale I really never had the time to hear before.
I should like to feel his argument, pungently,
as though he were me and I were him
and he were descending jauntily from Cornmarket's Natwest
as I were shuffling past,
the worries of his untold tale
weighing me down with tons more despair
than a token signature could hope to lift;
with a sore too gangrened for his
twopoundsmonthlydirectdebit ointment ever to salve.

Just once.

Dovecote Saturday Club

Re-starts Saturday 4th October

10am - 1pm
£1.25 per child
aged 5 to 12 yrs

*Please bring a
packed lunch.*

**Come along & meet new
friends & enjoy a wide
variety of activities
including:**

**arts & crafts,
games,
sports,
computers.**



Dovecote Centre, Nightingale Avenue, Tel 712299.

Leys Linx

News from your local regeneration scheme



The Community Chest will live on!

The Leys Linx Community Chest has allocated around £30,000 of Government SRB 5 funding in the last four years benefiting a wide range of community groups on the estate. This funding is coming to an end in 2004 but the good news is that the Oxfordshire Community Foundation wants to fund the Community Chest in 2004-5.

The other good news is that Blackbird Leys Housing Consortium (which brings together all the Housing Associations on the estate) have agreed to support the running costs of Kingfisher Green. Kingfisher Green is home to Leys News and the LRA, which Leys Linx has funded in the last four years. Our aim is to find funding to support all the scheme projects, which Leys Linx has funded in the last four years. So far, so good!

Childrens Fund

Building on the work undertaken by the Leys Community Against Drugs Project Leys Linx has been granted £34,000 from the Children's Fund over a three year period to do some awareness raising work with young people in local schools and to advise local parents about issues around drugs. *If you would like more information please contact the Leys Linx Office on 396392.*

Parent and Infant Group

A new 'The Parent and Infant Group' will start at the Leys Linx Centre on Friday mornings beginning on the 3rd October from 10am to 11.30am. The group will provide a support service to parents with infants or new babies. *Contact Enid on 402070 for more details.*

Theatre Extravaganza

Leys Community Against Drugs proudly presents Vita Nova's drug awareness play. It will highlight the dangers faced by people using drugs. Unlike other "do gooders" events, where people have no experience of drugs themselves, this drama group is made up of ex-users and abusers.

We feel these people are in the best position to tell it how it is without pulling any punches. The play may horrify you, shock you and maybe even humour you although it will not moralise. It will simply point out the basic facts and leave you to make up your own mind whether this lifestyle is for you. So 'Where is it?' we hear you ask. Blackbird Leys Community Centre Social Club on Monday the 27th of October 6-9pm. Suitable for adults and young people from 12 onwards and it is free! Refreshments will be available.

Want a volunteer?

The Leys Linx Centre is currently setting up a volunteer bureau. If your community organisation uses volunteers, let us know what volunteering opportunities and training you can offer and tell us if any special requirements apply like police checks. We will then try and identify a volunteer for you.

On the other hand if you are looking for a project to get involved in as a volunteer, please contact us and we will try and match you up to something to suit your interests and skills. Perhaps you could use volunteering as a means of getting some worthwhile training and experience to put on a CV?

Get in touch with Enid Foster on 402070; enidfoster@yahoo.co.uk or call in at the Leys Linx Centre.

New training on offer

Oxfordshire County Council has secured some funding for a pilot training programme to support the training of local people involved in community work activity on the Leys and in Bretch Hill Banbury. The accredited training takes place over 60 hours and will run in 2004. *Contact John Ord on 810615 for more information.*

If you are running a community project or are thinking of setting one up and need to fine-tune your skills, contact Jon Blackburn at the OCVA on 251946. He will do some training in the new year.

Afya

(from Kiswahili meaning healthy in body, mind and soul)

Energising women

Afya has received funding from Sport England to increase women's participation in sport, health and fitness activities.

The funding can be used to develop new activities and work with local sports and fitness providers, including voluntary groups and local sports clubs, to increase membership to include women from black, Asian and other minority communities. Afya also aims to provide the opportunity to develop sports leadership and coaching skills.

If you are interested in any aspects of Afya's activities please *contact Deborah McIlveen or Lonah Hebditch on 252812.*

Bye Sue

Goodbye Sue Weinstock, one of our Community Development workers who has got a job in Cutteslowe. Good luck in your future work.

Come to the Community Conference

Leys Linx and the Leys CDI are among many local organisations and agencies which will be supporting a local conference which will be held at Blackbird Leys Community Centre Social Club on Saturday the 1st of November. The Community Conference will address the following key issues:

- With funding streams like SRB coming to an end, how do we fund community projects on a more stable basis?
- How can individual community groups and organisations on the Leys work more closely together?
- How do we get more people excited about getting involved in community activity?
- What are the current priorities for action in the community?
- How do we make sure people get access to the training and skills they need if they get involved in community activity and how can we get recognition for the skills people already have?
- Do we need a new local strategic partnership to ensure that there is better communication between projects and better co-ordination of services and activities across the estate?
- Could an estate based partnership help us draw in more funding and resources and give us a stronger voice?
- What staff would we need? Do we need a Community Fundraiser? What about a Community Treasurer?

The conference will run from 2pm-5pm and will be followed by a social in the evening from 7pm.

If your organisation would like to make a contribution to support the running costs of holding the conference or you need childcare, contact the Conference organiser on 077 129 22088.

Leys Community Learning Project

• *Participatory learning on the Leys*

Changing

Personal and Social Change

The Leys Community Learning Project is going to run a series of short courses and workshops on Thursdays between now and December. These will involve a lot of hands on experience and open learning.

Subjects will include:

- Making it easier to be involved and getting your voice heard!
- Reflective and planning skills to help your work, volunteering and in life generally.
- Why everyone hates meetings!
- Listening to what people say and acting upon it!
- Listening to and learning from what you know and experience!
- How groups and communities across the world organise to get things changed!
- How to plan actions to change your life / community!
- How to check if what you've ended up doing is what you really wanted to be doing!
- Raising funds and whether getting £200,000 from the Lottery will do you any good!

An important part of this project will be learning and doing evaluation of community schemes and helping to plan and run the community conference on 1st November (See above and page 2).

• *For information ring 396755*

Who's it for?

- You and me
- Residents, volunteers, activists and anyone who works in the community
- People who've already done some participatory work and want to develop their skills and experience

First Session

Our first session will be on Thursday 25th September 10am - 4pm and every Thursday from then on at the Top Bar, Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre. You can do all the sessions or just the ones that interest you. So if you are interested talk to us now! Tel: 396755

Qualifications and childcare

You can get a basic qualification via Ruskin College if you want to. To do so you'll need to do 30 hours (4 days) between now and December.

- We can pay for child-care and/or run a creche
- If Thursday is no good for you or your group, talk to us anyway-we can probably arrange something for a time and place that suits you.

Volunteers party on

On August 9th the amazing volunteers that keep many of Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys projects going were honoured with their own special appreciation night at the CMS Bar.



Popstars Janine and Sasha get into the groove

Without our volunteers many projects could not function and others would not even exist. The idea behind the party was just to say a giant thank you to all those people who help to make the Leys a better place and just to let them know that their work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Thanks and congratulations too to Enid and Sasha who did some incredible work organising the whole night and transforming the room into a glittering spectacle. The highlight of the night was the karaoke special that saw quite a few people take to the stage....

Leys News would like to say a special thank you to all its volunteers who work hard to make this paper (and its website) a reality. We couldn't do it without you!



Chef Toni enjoys the night out



Moroccan Day at Cuddesdon Corner

On the 28th of August there was a Moroccan bazaar at Cuddesdon Corner with stalls selling everything from food to games and clothes.

Tenisha and Courtney sell loo ladies at the Moroccan bazaar.



The somewhat familiar looking Moroccan Manager (Pete Weply) at Cuddesdon Corner.

Cuddesdon Corner is looking for feedback on the possibility of opening a **Shopper's Creche**. If you think getting a few hours to do some shopping would be helpful let them know on 773 263.

Seen him around?

Brush up your skills...

maths
writing
reading
computers

FREE classes

... and get on with life!

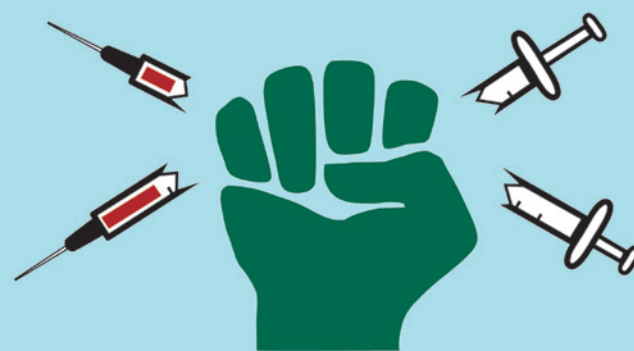
01865 778827

Oxfordshire Basic Skills Service

Leys Community Against Drugs

Vita Nova are back!

Drugs Awareness through Drama



Free performance and discussion

for adults and young people over 13

October 27th, 6pm

At the CMS Bar (Social Club)
Blackbird Leys Community Centre
(Free refreshments)

Further information: 0771 292 2088



OPEN EVERY DAY
from 7am to 10pm

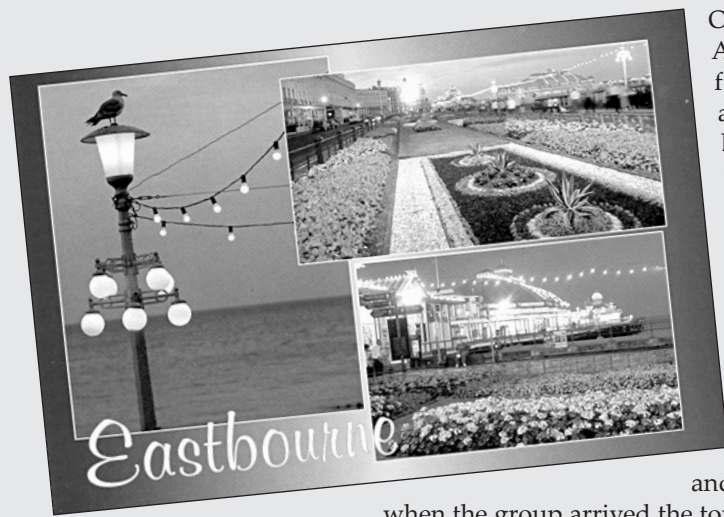
**Most of your needs
in one store**

Play **lotto here**



Leys SPAR Ltd * Dunnock Way * Blackbird Leys * Oxford * OX4 7EX

POSTCARD FROM EASTBOURNE



On Saturday 18th August a group from the Monday and Thursday Lunch Club together with their guests, left Oxford for a day trip to Eastbourne. The coach left the Clockhouse, Blackbird Leys at 8am.

The weather was overcast and a bit chilly but

when the group arrived the town, beach and pier were packed with people. When the trip was booked it was not known that an air display was taking place that day. The display included flights by aircraft from World War II and the last event, by the Red Arrows, was very impressive.

Despite the crowds, the noise from the aircraft and the weather everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and requested that next autumn a return trip could be made, but on a different day to the air display!

Story and postcard supplied by Roy Simmonds

New events for the over-50s

The CMS Bar at Blackbird Leys Community Centre has teamed up with community minded local residents to provide two regular social events for the over 50's to enjoy. This is a welcome development for the people of Blackbird Leys.

The lunch for the over 50's will be on every Thursday at The Barn between 12 - 12.30 and will involve working closely with Roy Simmonds and his team of volunteers. This project will take off on 18 September 2003.

Joe Obhiozele and Mike Abbott from the Tower Blocks have something else up their sleeves too - a new social event for the over 50's. The plan is for "Monday Noon Musical Memories" to begin on the 6th of October. It will take place every Monday from 12 - 4pm and sounds like it should be a lot of fun. "This will be a great opportunity for everybody and a further demonstration that everyone is welcome here at the centre" remarked Joe. As the food is subsidised over 50's will get a very good deal on their lunches. The afternoons will include entertainment from the group "Evergreen", who will be playing music from the 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's, Bingo (including a jackpot Bingo session) a raffle and other entertainments.

Don't forget that the Community bar is now open all day as well as in the evenings.

Wise Words

"What I said was what you heard was what I wanted to say was"

A favourite phrase from Robert Evans of ACCAN, who heard this from his college tutor years ago.

"It's about people not communicating properly and the misunderstandings that can happen because of it. It can lead to all sorts of trouble!" says Robert.

If you have a favourite expression or some wise words why not get in contact with us and we'll pass them on to our readers.

Film Review

Belleville Rendezvous (12A)

By Julian Dourado



called Madame Souza, manages to follow them over the stormy ocean in a rowing boat. Then Madame Souza attempts a daring rescue, with the help of her grandson's corpulent dog, Bruno, and three grenade toting vaudeville singers. . .

This animated adventure from France is both playfully inventive and strangely macabre, its tone a bit like a combination of Wallace and Gromit and *The City of Lost Children*. Its humour is dark and quirky, and features the weirdest car chase you will ever see.

It is a rare example of a full-length animation made mainly for adults, though (older) children will enjoy it too. The sound track is virtually free of dialogue, allowing the film's bizarre story to be told entirely by its expressive action.

I would recommend this unique and highly entertaining film to all who enjoy creative animation free from Disney clichés.

What's on at the Leys Linx Centre?
contact Enid on 402070

Credit Union (drop-in)
Monday 10.00am, Tuesday 7.00pm & Saturday 10.30am local savings scheme

Adult Careers & Training Advice (drop-in) - Tuesday afternoon (Information Advice & Guidance Partnership)

Housing Rights (drop-in) - Fortnightly on Friday afternoons (phone Enid for the next session) Housing problems? no problem

Agnes Smith Advice Centre
- outreach service Monday & Wednesday phone 770206 for an appointment

During the world famous Tour de France cycle race, three of the competitors are kidnapped by the French Mafia and are shipped across the Atlantic to the city of Belleville. Luckily, the grandmother of one of the cyclists, a tiny club-footed old lady



EMBS is an equal opportunities training organisation. Our courses are open to everybody regardless of race, creed, colour, disability, gender or age.

FREE Courses (Open to all)

- Business Counselling
- 4 day Business Start-Up skills
- English - ESOL
- Basic Skills - Literacy
- Computer Training - beginners, intermediate, and advanced
- Computer Troubleshooting
- Crèche Work
- Basic Book-keeping (evening)
- Desktop Publishing (evening)
- ICT (evening)
- LearnDirect - a range of flexible courses in computing, personal development and business skills

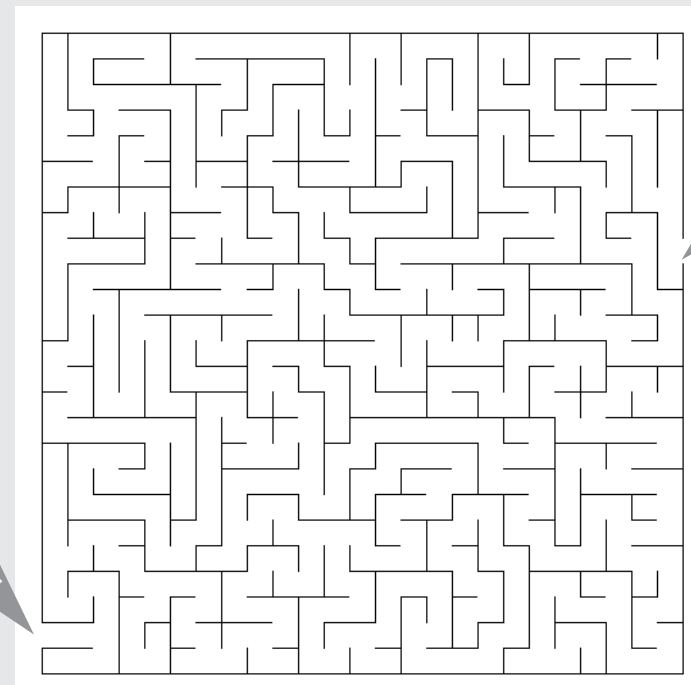
To apply contact EMBS
on 01865 794431

Admin Office:
3 Collins Street, Oxford,
OX4 1XS Fax: 727015

Supported by Jobcentre
Plus, European Social
Fund, Learn Direct,
Abingdon and Witney
College.

Competition Corner

To enter, find your way through the maze, cut out the picture and send it with your name and address to **Leys News**, 26 Kingfisher Green, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 7BX. Entries must be sent before October 22. The first correct entry pulled from the hat will win £10.



And the winner is....



Our spot the ball competition in Issue 32 proved a bit of a challenge to most. The correct position of the ball is shown opposite.

Congratulations to **Mansour Ahmed of Bullrush Road** who won £10 for the nearest guess.

Your elected representatives

member of parliament

Oxford East:

Andrew Smith - Labour

4 Flaxfield Rd Oxford OX4 6QD
Phone: 772893

Surgeries held first Friday each month at Barton Neighborhood Centre 3 - 3.45pm
Princes St 4.15 - 5.30pm
Rose Hill Community Centre 6 - 7pm
Third Friday each month rolling surgery around the constituency, including Blackbird Leys.
Please call for precise times and locations.

city councillors

Blackbird Leys ward:

Cllr Val Smith - Labour

4 Flaxfield Rd Oxford OX4 6QD
Phone: 772893
Mobile: 07767 446051

Cllr Pat Stannard - Labour (Lord Mayor)

31 Green Hill OX4 7UD
Phone: 777433

Northfield Brook ward:

Cllr Molly Florey - Labour

122 Sandy Lane Oxford OX4 6AS
Phone: 712620

Cllr Stuart Craft - Independent Working Class Association

Mobile: 07733 274324
E-mail: stuart@bliwca.fsnet.co.uk

The three Labour councillors hold surgeries at the Leisure Centre on Saturdays from 11 - 12 noon.
To find out who will be there please ring them on the numbers above.
Stuart Craft the IWCA councillor for Northfield Brook is negotiating with the Leys Residents Association to hold regular Wednesday evening surgeries at 26 Kingfisher Green. Contact him directly for more information.

city councillor

Blackbird Leys ward:

Cllr Barbara Gatehouse - Labour

33 Salford Rd Oxford OX3 0RY
phone: 240424



Andrew Smith



Val Smith



Pat Stannard



Molly Florey



Stuart Craft



Barbara Gatehouse

useful local numbers

services:

Abandoned vehicles. If on public land call: 252942

Asian Women's helpline: 0800 0526077

Bulk rubbish collection: 725912

Dialability: Disability helpline: 763600.

Dog nuisance: call the dog warden on 252914. Out of hours 240924.

Fridges/freezers: free collection 252936

Garden refuse: green waste sacks 50p each. Call 725912. Better still compost your own.

Junk mail: to stop receiving unsolicited mail write to FREEPOST 22, London W1E. Free service.

Noise pollution: 252556

Pavement hazards: (eg uneven surfaces) 747390

Pest control: 252384

Pollution in streams and rivers: 0800 807060

Street lighting: to report faulty lights call freephone 0800 317802

Syringe collection: 249811

Trading standards: 815000

Traveller management services: 01993 814079

local organisations:

Accan (African-Caribbean Community Action Network) phone: 467050

Agnes Smith Advice Centre: 770206

Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground: 747704

Blackbird Leys Community Centre: bookings 435954; centre manager 401098

Blackbird Leys Credit Union: 773098

Blackbird Leys Library: 770403

Blackbird Leys Parish Council: 734346

www.blackbirdleys.co.uk

Blackbird Leys Youth Centre: 772886

CMS Bar, Community Centre: 777162

First Blackbird Leys Brownies: 770959

First Blackbird Leys Rainbow Guides: 396553

Leys Community Development Initiative: 395927

Leys Linx office: 396392

Leys Linx centre: 402070

Oasis drop in centre for women who have experienced mental health problems. Open Mondays 5-9 and Fridays 11-3 off Cowley Road. 721472

Oxford Community Mediation: 776789

education:

Able Adult basic skills centre: 776334

Community Education; East and South Oxford: 712094

Oxford College FE Leys campus: 245871

sports:

Afya: women's sports and fitness: 396392

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre: 467020

Blackbird Leys Swimming Pool: 467040

Peers Sports Centre: 467095

health:

Doctors surgery: 778244

Blackbird Leys Health Centre: 778244

Health visitors: 715689

under 8's:

Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre: 773263

Dovecote Under 8's: 712299

Homestart (home visiting scheme for under 5's) 779991

The PEEP Centre (Peers Early Education Partnership): 395145

Shepherds Hill Pre-School: 779504

housing

Ealing Family Housing Association; Elaine Partridge and Rhianon Jones, Phone: 712244, Fax: 712121

The Farmhouse opening times: Mon - Fri 9 - 1, and 2 - 5, except Fri 2 - 4

Oxford Citizens Housing Association: All calls through customer services: 773000. Farmhouse office Mark Kimber / Elizabeth Naluwooza / Aida Tomolso open as per Ealing Family (above).

Cherwell Housing Trust Customer Services: 260555

Northcote Housing Association: 712244

Leys Residents Association. Open to all residents in the new part of Blackbird Leys. Contact via 26 Kingfisher Green 749876
lra1@hotmail.com

Blackbird Leys Local Services Shop:

3 Cuddesdon Way, Mon - Thurs 9 to 5pm, Fri 9 to 4.30pm. Tel: 467222

Oxford Housing Rights: free and confidential advice, 11 New Road, 10-5 Mon/Wed/Fri, 10-1 Tue/Thur
Tel: 247853

police:

999 - In an emergency or if you see a crime being or about to be committed.

Community beat officers: Sergeant Steve Redding, Community Beat Office and answer machine. For non urgent matters, advice and information, phone 335138

Police Customer Services: To report incidents that do not need police attendance call 266333

Oxford Control Room: To report crime that requires the police 266000

Cowley Police Station: 749909

Family Protection Unit: 335200

Crimestoppers, freephone: 0800 555111

fire

Oxfordshire Fire Service, helpline: 719900

NEED HELP ?

Leys News can take no responsibility for work completed by tradespeople listed below.

Experienced gardener available with 15 years experience. Big and small jobs, landscaping, garden furniture restoration, pressure washing for paving. Contact: Stuart Mabbutt Ph: 747 243

Clean & Gleam Window cleaning service. Contact: Chris Reynolds Ph: 07816010728

General handy man available for painting, decorating, gardening etc. Contact: Leslie Dunford Ph: 07753 123 208

The Brewsters Local teenage band available to play gigs or liven up parties. Contact: brewsters_brew@hotmail.com

What's on weekly

Age Concern resource desk at the Clockhouse. Regular computer sessions for the over 50's. Information on 717614

Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground After School Club Monday to Friday 3-5.15pm

Brownies Thursday 6 - 7.30pm Holy Family Church Hall (for 7 to 11 age group)

Carer and toddler group Thursday 9.15-11am and Friday 1-3pm at the Dovecote. £1

Dovecote After School Club Monday to Thursday 3.15-4.45pm

Dovecote Saturday Club (children aged 5-12) 10am-1pm.

The Edge - Youth Club BBL Community Centre. Wednesday 1-4.30pm drop in 7.30-9.30pm club

Family Nurturing Network Tuesday 9-1.30pm The Clockhouse

Guides Friday 7-9pm at the Holy Family Church. Girls 10-15 years. Info on 455970.

Holy Family Church Sunday service 10am with lively children's church.

Home Start First Babies. Dovecote Friday 10.30-12noon

Karate Kids Tuesday 6-7pm and Thursday 5.45-6.45pm at the Barn

Monday club Drop-in for over 50s. Monday 10-1.30pm at the Clockhouse £2 + 50p membership

New parents group 10.30-11.30am Friday at the Dovecote

Peep groups on the Leys. For more information call 395145.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Mass every Sunday 9.30am & 6pm

Self defence 6-9pm Tuesday at the Barn

State Pension Advice Surgery: Leys Linx Community Centre, 2nd & 4th Monday of month 9.30am-12.30pm

Snak Mondays 10.30-1pm at the Dovecote. Hot food, drinks and more.

Weight watchers 7-8pm Thursday at the Barn

What do Area Committees do?

The six Area Committees are responsible for the following:

- abandoned vehicles
- allotments
- car parks
- cemeteries
- community centres
- decisions on planning applications
- ditches and streams
- dog wardens
- parks and countryside management
- public toilets
- street cleaning
- street naming

South East Area Committee meetings

Ring 252249 for further information



Monday 6th October
6.30pm - 9.30pm

Cardinal House
Cardinal Close
Off Newman Road

Monday 3rd Nov
6.30pm - 9.30pm

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre
Pegasus Road
Blackbird Leys

Monday 1st December
6.30pm - 9.30pm

Rose Hill
Community Centre
The Oval



ALL THE FUN OF THE Fair...



Images from Leys Fair,
Sunday Sept. 14th 2003



Community Centre Bar

CMS Bar

Open everyday of the week
from 11am to 11.30pm,
(Tuesday and Thursday: 4pm - 11.30pm)

Sunday Bingo

Sundays 4-5pm, cash prizes only.
Relax and play bingo with background
entertainment, followed by music from the
50s, 60s and 70s.

"Monday Noon Musical Memories"

Starting on Monday 6 October, 12-4pm.
Music from the 40s, 50s, 60s etc.
Come and be entertained by the Evergreen
Group. Lunch is available.

Big Screen - Sky Sports,
and other forms of entertainment await you.

Food is available (Tuesday - Sunday)

Sit down and have your meal, or if you prefer,
we also provide take-away.

We now have card processing facilities so you
don't have to carry cash when you come to the
bar - we can even give you cash back.

Come and support your community centre - the place to be.

Easoccec

Peers Campus, Sandy Lane West, Littlemore, Oxford, OX4 6BX

We have new courses, half day and full day workshops.

If you are interested in:

Dance

Family Learning

Exercise

Computing

Silk Painting

Arts & Crafts

Water
Colours

☎ 01865 712094, Fax: 01865 770758, Or ✉ enquiries@easoccec.net

Have you seen our 03/04 Brochure?

Come on!

**Try one of our friendly informal
learning experiences**